

# Poverty In Contra Costa County

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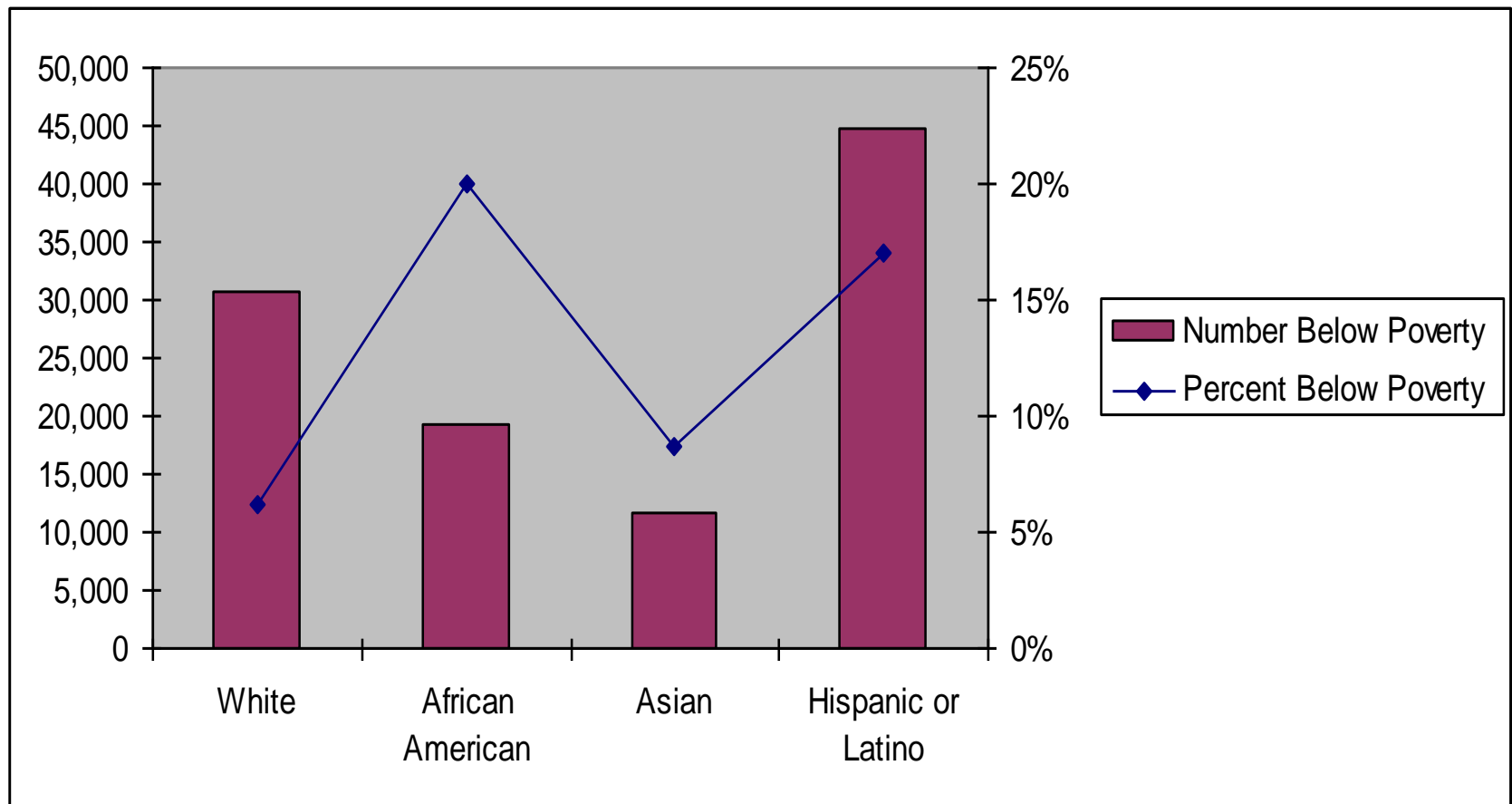
# Measuring Poverty

- The 2014 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a family of four is \$23,850
- The FPL is a national measure that does not adjust for cost of living in high cost parts of the country
- Contra Costa is the 4<sup>th</sup> wealthiest county in California (median household income \$74,177)
- Many Contra Costa families are in crisis and more are struggling to make ends meet than the poverty rates alone suggest

# 2012 Status of Poverty Contra Costa County

- 119,600 people (11% of pop.) live below the federal poverty level -- 38,333 (32%) of them are children
- 242,744 (23%) people live below 185% FPL (\$36,611 for a family of 3)
- The self sufficiency standard for one adult and two young children in Contra Costa is \$63,945
- Nearly 50,000 Contra Costa residents live in deep poverty (less than 50% of FPL)

# 2012 Contra Costa Poverty by Race & Ethnicity



More than half of Contra Costa's population in poverty live in four cities: Antioch, Concord, Pittsburg and Richmond

<b>2012 Contra Costa County Poverty by City</b>	<b>number in poverty</b>	<b>% in poverty</b>	<b>150% of poverty</b>	<b>% of children in poverty</b>	<b>% working at least part time and living in poverty</b>
Richmond	18,454	18%	29%	18%	31%
Concord	15,181	12%	21%	19%	27%
Antioch	14,963	15%	23%	20%	28%
Danville	1,667	4%	5%	6%	8%
San Ramon	2,510	3%	6%	4%	16%
Pittsburg	12,428	19%	28%	29%	35%

# Poverty Reduction Work

1. Safety Net Services – EHSD
2. Collective Impact Strategies – SparkPoint
3. Innovating & Organizing Strategies
  - Safety Net Initiative
  - Family Economic Security Partnership (FESP)
  - Rise Together

# Contra Costa County Employment & Human Services

Every day EHSD programs help thousands of residents in their efforts to escape poverty by:

- Connecting 60,000 people to health care via Medi-Cal
- Helping 65,000 people get food through CalFresh (formerly food stamps) each month

# Contra Costa County Employment & Human Services

- Helping hundreds of parents afford work by caring for their children at Head Start
- Helping hundreds of adults find jobs that pay sustainable wages each year through CalWorks and the local American Job Centers of California Network



# Public Benefit Recipients

There is not an “average” public benefits recipient. Here’s a broad picture:

## **Race/Ethnicity**

- CalFresh: Black 31%, Hispanic 29%, White 27%
- CalWorks: Black 38%, Hispanic 32%, White 20%
- Medi-Cal: Hispanic 34%, Black 20%, White 23%

# Public Benefit Recipients

## **Age**

- 50% of CalFresh recipients are children
- 80% of CalWorks recipients are children

## **Languages Spoken**

- More than 19 languages spoken by benefits recipients
- 80% English, 18% Spanish, 2% other

# CalFresh Highlights

- More than 65,000 low income people in Contra Costa County get help putting food on the table through CalFresh.
- 48,000 people in Contra Costa are **eligible** for CalFresh but **not enrolled**.
- If these 48,000 people were enrolled, hunger would be reduced, and
- \$96 million would be put into the local economy over the course of the year.

# CalFresh

The CalFresh Partner group, consisting of staff from EHSD, the Food Bank, the Crisis Center, First 5/FESP and the Y&H Soda Foundation, is working on strategies to connect those 25,000 households to CalFresh

Strategies include:

- Streamline and improve EHSD business processes
- Improve benefits access through partner collaboration
- Increase community CalFresh education

# Recommended Action

Pledge Contra Costa County support for Rise Together's Road Map to Cut Poverty

Direct staff to return to the Board in six months with an update on:

1. County poverty facts
2. CalFresh enrollment strategies and rates
3. Rise Together and other antipoverty initiatives

# Collective Impact Poverty Reduction Strategies

Brief comments from community partners

- Safety Net Innovation Network,  
*Bob Uyeki, Y&H Soda Foundation*
- SparkPoint, *Jim Becker, Richmond Community Foundation*
- Family Economic Security Partnership, *Sean Casey, First 5/FESP*
- Rise Together, *Lorne Needle, United Way of the Bay Area*